

### **Remarks**

Entry of this amendment and allowance of all remaining claims are respectfully requested. Upon entrance of this amendment, claims 2-7 & 9 will remain pending.

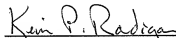
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowability of claims 2-7, 9, 11-16, 18, 20-21, 25-30 & 32 if rewritten into independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive to this indication, the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 3 & 9 is written into independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 2-7 & 9 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The amendments submitted herewith are presented to accelerate allowance of certain method claims pending in this application. These amendments are not intended as an acknowledgement that the previously rejected claims 1, 10, 8, 17, 19, 22-24 & 31 were unpatentable over the art cited in the Office Action, or that allowable dependent claims 11-16, 18, 20-21, 25-30 & 32 are being abandoned. Rather, the present amendments and cancellations are presented only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable method subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter and other claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

*Should any issue remain unresolved, however, Applicants' undersigned representative requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss the matter in the hope of advancing prosecution of the subject application.*

Respectfully submitted,



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